

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 DHA-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 /105 W
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R 231255Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9867
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 809

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SW, VN, UN
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATES SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR UN
MEMBERSHIP FOR VIETNAM

REF: PEKING 313 (NOTAL)

1. IN A STATEMENT READ IN THE RIKSDAG ON FEBRUARY 17,
FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER AGAIN STATED SWEDEN'S STRONG
SUPPORT OF VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS.
SHE WAS RESPONDING TO AN INTERPELLATION PUT FORTH
BY MP EIVOR MARKLUND OF THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK)
ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT, IN THE UN OR ELSEWHERE,
INTENDS TO "TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO INFLUENCE THE US TO
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MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS VIS-A-VIS VIETNAM AS SPECIFIED IN THE
PARIS AGREEMENT."

2. IN HER REPLY, SODER AVOIDED ANY DIRECT REFERNCE TO THE
PARIS AGREEMENT AND LARGELY REPEATED THE GOS STATEMENT OF
LAST FALL AT THE UN DURING SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
OF VIETNAM'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT HAS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS STATED CLEARLY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION HAS AN OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM, AND THAT THOSE WHO WERE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION IN VIETNAM HAVE A PARTICULAR OBLIGATION.

"WITH REGARD TO VIETNAM". UN MEMBERSHIP, WE HAVE STATED JUST AS CLEARLY - AMONG OTHER PLACES IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL - THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT UNSOLVED BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN ONE OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND A STATE APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP SHOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT MEMBERSHIP. SWEDEN HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLE OF THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE UN.

"IT IS THE HOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION WILL REVIEW ITS RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND THUS PROVIDE VIETNAM WITH THE POSSIBILITY TO TAKE ITS LEGITIMATE PLACE IN THE UN, AND THAT CONDITIONS ARE SET UP FOR AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE RECONSTRUCTION WORK. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO SEE THAT THESE GOALS ARE ACHIEVED. END QUOTE.

3. IN DISCUSSION ON FEBRUARY 17 WITH POL. COUNS. WHICH TOUCHED ON SODER STATEMENT ABOVE, MFA OFFICIAL JAN LUNDAVIK EMPHASIZED GOS HOPE THAT RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION ON VIETNAM WILL LEAD TO EARLY MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH HANOI ON RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES. HE CONFIRMED REPORT (REFTEL) THAT SRV VICE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH HAD TOLD SWEDES IN JANUARY THAT IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HANOI TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL
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AMERICAN MIA'S, MUCH LESS THEIR OWN. ON THAT OCCASION, THACH WAS BRIEFED BY MFA POLITICAL DIVISION CHIEF LEIF LEIFLAND ON THE INTENSITY OF AMERICAN FEELING ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF A MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON MIA'S HANOI SHOULD NOT EXPECT EARLY AMERICAN INITIATIVES AIMED AT A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. LEIFLAND'S MESSAGE "GENUINELY IMPRESSED" THACH, LUNDAVIK SAID, BECAUSE LEIFLAND IS KNOWN IN HANOI AS AN AUTHENTIC EXPERT ON US FOREIGN POLICY. POL. COUNS. AGREED THAT ON THIS ASPECT OF ISSUE, LEIFLAND WAS READING AMERICAN SCENE ACCURATELY. LUNDAVIK ALSO CONFIRMED THACH'S STATEMENTS IN STOCKHOLM ON SRV DESIRE FOR EUROPEAN INVESTMENT AND ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS RECEPTIVITY TO POSSIBLE US BUSINESS CONTACTS.

4. COMMENT: SODER'S RIKSDAG STATEMENT REFLECTS THREE CONTINUING ELEMENTS OF SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY:
(1) VIETNAM SHOULD BE GIVEN UN MEMBERSHIP ASAP;
(2) US-VIETNAMESE BILATERAL PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED

TO BLOCK SUCH MEMBERSHIP; AND

(3) THE US SHARES A LARGE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION REQUIRED IN VIETNAM. WHILE THIS POLICY IS EXPRESSED NOWADAYS LESS FREQUENTLY AND WITH LESS PALNIAN STRIDENCY, THE CHANGE TO A NON-SOCILIAST GOVERNMENT IN SWEDEN LAST SEPTEMBER HAS NOT AND, VERY PROBABLY, WILL NOT WEAKEN ITS THRUST.

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Message Attributes

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